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Addendum

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1. Commission for the Defence of Human Rights in Central America

Special consultative status granted in 1991

Report for 1995-1998

Objectives and aims

The aim of the Commission for the Defence of Human Rights in Central America (CODEHUCA) is to protect and promote the rights of every person living in Central America; to raise standards and to teach people about their rights and mechanisms of protection, so as to ensure their proper enjoyment.

CODEHUCA currently has 12 member organizations in the Central American region, spanning the seven countries from Belize to Panama. Since 1995, when the Committee for the Relatives of Detained Disappeared Persons in Honduras (CODEFAH) became a member, the Commission has not added to its membership. It is not affiliated with any non-governmental organization holding consultative status of any category, and it does not receive any financial contribution from the United Nations or any of its subsidiary bodies.

Participation in the council and its subsidiary bodies

In general CODEHUCA participates with oral and written proposals, accusations and analyses. It participated, on request, in the following meetings:

(a) Fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 1996), with oral and written discussions on, inter alia, economic, social and cultural rights, and children's rights;

(b) Working Group on Indigenous People, concerning the project for a universal declaration of the rights of indigenous people (Geneva, 1996), with written and oral submissions;

(c) Fifty-third session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Geneva, 1997) on enforced or involuntary disappearances;

(d) World Summit for Social Development (New York, March 1995);

(e) Forty-ninth session of the Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on the situation of migrant workers and their families, the question of transnational businesses, the rights of women, and the application of international standards relating to the rights of minors in detention;

(f) Second session of the Special Working Group on Migrants and Human Rights (February 1998);

(g) Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, on the rights of migrant workers, persons subjected to any form of detention or incarceration or torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatments or punishments; on the situation of human rights procedures, promotion, protection and defence, and other items;

(h) Fiftieth session of the Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on economic, social and cultural rights, transnational businesses; the administration of justice and human rights; international standards relating to minors in detention; justice for minors; rights of women;

(i) Fifty-first annual DPI/NGO conference on the theme "50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: from words to actions" (New York, 1998);

(j) Fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, on economic, social and cultural rights; enforced disappearances and summary execution; rights of women and violence against women, rights of children; migrant workers; promotion and protection of human rights, the defence of human rights and services for sorting and technical cooperation in material concerning human rights;

(k) Forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 1-19 March 1999);

(l) Session of the Commission on Population and Development acting as preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (New York, 24-31 March 1999);

(m) Session of the Commission for Social Development acting as preparatory committee for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (New York, 1999);

(n) Twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (New York, 30 June-2 July 1999);

(o) Fifty-first session of the Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on the right of sovereignty and self-determination; toxic waste and the contamination of military bases occupied by the United States in Panama;

(p) Meetings in Costa Rica with Vittit Muntarbhorn, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children; Fatoma Zohra Ouhachi-Ksentini, Special Rapporteur on toxic waste;

(q) Meetings with Arjun Sengupta, independent expert on the right to development; Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Fatoma Zohra Ouhachi-Ksentini, Special Rapporteur on toxic waste; Katarina Tomasevski, Special Rapporteur on the right to education; Radhiuka Coornaraswamy, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and Ofelia Calcetas Santos, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the situation of children and adolescents.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

CODEHUCA initiated a campaign for the elaboration of a facultative protocol for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It participated in relevant forums of UNDP, helping to distribute educational materials and coordinate and execute activities with the World Organization for Migrants on the situation of migrants in the region. It responded to various questionnaires from the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Other relevant activities

(a) Periodic publication of materials with commentaries — for example, on the Declaration for the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Beliefs (resolution 36/55 of 1981), and on the Declaration on Social Progress and Improvement (resolution 2542 (XXIV), of 1969);

(b) Annual celebrations of, among others, International Day of Women, International Day against Violence, International Human Rights Day, International Day of Migrants, with different activities such as national and regional meetings, marches, conferences, publicities, open-air concerts or children's courses;

(c) The Commission organizes national and regional seminars and workshops on the administration of justice, mechanisms and international means of protecting human rights and their application in the region. For example, in 1998 CODEHUCA held a series of national workshops dedicated to the need to elaborate and approve a facultative protocol to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(d) Regional investigations were carried out on the prison system, street children, child prostitution and economic, social and cultural rights.

2. Data for Development

Consultative status granted in 1987

Data for Development is an international organization set up in 1975 to organize the international exchange of experience in the field of information systems and technologies, particularly between industrialized and developing countries.

Its activities fall into the following three basic categories:

(a) International conferences on a specific theme (such as the International Conference on Information Systems for Transition Economies, held in New Delhi in 1996). Such conferences result in publications which are widely distributed among international organizations and third world countries;

(b) Select working groups bringing together practitioners and academics from countries of both North and South (dealing with, for example, community information systems);

(c) A network made up of members of the organization and their correspondents to provide a response to requests by developing countries and to give help with contacts and bilateral or multilateral cooperation activities. For example, as the result of a request several years ago by the Sri Lanka Department of Census and Statistics, which wished to set up a register of the population, the Department was, after an examination of its requirements, put in touch with its counterpart in Denmark, where, according to data held by the organization, conditions were closest to what was required. A cooperation mission was subsequently sent by Denmark.

Cooperation with the United Nations and specialized agencies

One example of such cooperation was the International Conference on Information Systems for Transition Economies, held in March 1996 in New Delhi, as a follow-up to an international conference held several years previously in Beijing. The Conference highlighted the new need for information systems in countries in transition from a planned to a market economy.

The Conference, which was organized by the National Informatics Centre of India, the Director-General of which, Dr. N. Seshagiri, was a member of the Data for Development Board of Directors, was held in cooperation with (and with financial assistance from) the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Asian Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Research Centre, based in Ottawa, and the Indian Government. The outcome of the Conference was a book entitled *Information Systems for Economies in Transition*, published by McGraw-Hill/India and distributed free of charge, since the printing costs were funded out of the Conference budget.

New directions for Data for Development

The organization, which began in 1975 by dealing with public administration information systems, is now developing a new programme, given the major developments in information technologies and the pre-eminence of the market economy in most countries in the world, while retaining its original objective of exchanging experience between countries of the North and the South.

New programme

In 2001, the organization will be launching a new programme of work dealing with the use of new information and communication technologies in three areas: communication networks and the respective roles of the State and the private sector; Internet penetration in third world countries and the conditions under which such penetration can make the best possible contribution to economic and social development; and the use of new technologies, especially the Internet, digital television and CD-ROM, for distance vocational training in both third world and developed countries.

New modes of operation

As stated above, Data for Development is above all, a network of practitioners in both North and South. Originally composed of people engaged exclusively in public administration and academe, the organization has now extended its recruitment to the private sector.

The new information technologies will be used by the organization both for the exchange of experience and for the operation of working groups, which will be able to work without needing to meet in person, with resulting substantial savings. Each working group will be allocated an *Internet forum* enabling large numbers of practitioners and researchers, whether or not they are members, to follow the group's work and contribute with their comments.

The organization's newsletter, which is printed and distributed by post, will also be available on the Internet.

New sources of funding

Data for Development was previously funded by subscriptions from its members and by specific contributions from international organizations and Governments earmarked for international conferences.

Data for Development is creating a new category of member, *associate members*, for which businesses will be eligible. Individual members will no longer be asked to subscribe. The associate members will fund a biennial programme through a substantial contribution (US$ 5,000-10,000 per associate member).

Possibility of a new name

The organization may change its name to "IT for Development/Technologies de l'information pour le développement". A proposal to that effect will shortly be put before the Board of Directors.

3. Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era

Special consultative status granted in 1995

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) is a South feminist network of academics, activists and researchers working for an equitable, sustainable and gender-just development. DAWN engages in global advocacy and is involved at the regional level in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific. It is not affiliated with any international non-governmental organization in consultative status, as such, but works in partnership with other global non-governmental organizations and networks. There is a very close relationship between DAWN's work and that of the United Nations. A lot of DAWN's work follows from the work of the United Nations, especially with regard to the commitments made by Governments at international conferences. DAWN actively works, through the United Nations processes, at the preparatory committee meetings, NGO Forums and official conferences, to influence the final outcome documents by offering holistic analyses of global development issues from a South feminist perspective. Members of the DAWN Steering Committee are from time to time invited to advise the United Nations and its agencies, in various capacities. Besides participating directly in United Nations initiatives, DAWN organizes its own meetings and workshops to disseminate its research and analyses.

Aims and purposes

The aims and purposes of the organization are:

(a) To examine the economic, social, cultural and political processes which cause and perpetuate inequalities of gender, class and race;

(b) To analyse development strategies and their impact on women and the poor, through a feminist perspective;

(c) To seek development alternatives for sustainable and gender-just development, through research, analyses, training, advocacy, and communication activities.

Participation in United Nations meetings

Between 1995 and 1998, DAWN participated in the following United Nations meetings:

(a) World Summit on Social Development. At the third session of the Preparatory Committee (New York, 14-27 January 1995), DAWN's platform "Challenging the given: DAWN perspectives on social development" was the basis for a briefing to G-77 delegations. DAWN organized a series of meetings and panels to disseminate DAWN analyses and contributed to the draft programme of action for the Summit. DAWN also funded panels organized by UNIFEM/UNICEF;

(b) World Summit on Social Development, and NGO Forum, Copenhagen, 3-12 March 1995;

(c) Fourth World Conference on Women, third session of the Preparatory Committee (New York, 13-31 March 1995);

(d) Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Forum (Beijing, 30 August-15 September 1995). DAWN organized two workshops at the NGO Forum, one entitled "Securing our gains and moving forward to the 21st century", and the other "Alternative economic frameworks". DAWN launched its platform on alternative economic frameworks "Markers on the way: the DAWN debates on alternative development" at the NGO Forum. Four DAWN representatives, from Cameroon, Senegal, Cuba and Jamaica, were part of their governmental delegations to the official conference.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

(a) UNIFEM/ECLAC/CARICOM Retreat on Conference Diplomacy and Negotiation (17-19 July 1995, Barbados);

(b) UNIFEM/Small island developing State (SID) international round table (New York, 2-4 February 1996). The round table on "Sustainable livelihoods: foundation of just and sustainable communities" brought together a select group of grass-roots activists and development thinkers. DAWN was represented by its General Coordinator and the Research Coordinator on Sustainable Livelihoods, whose presentation was titled "Moving forward from sustainable livelihoods to sustainable communities";

(c) UNIFEM's twenty-fifth anniversary awards ceremony (New York, 28 October-1 November 1996). DAWN was invited to participate. Prior to this event, DAWN had taken part in two panel presentations at a one-day UNIFEM strategic workshop "Advocacy for change". The panels were on "The global environment" and "Challenges and strategies facing organizations and agencies wishing to support women's empowerment";

(d) UNDP Advisory Panel meeting on the 1997 *Human Development Report* (New York, 7 September 1996). Two DAWN representatives were invited to serve on the panel.

Other relevant activities

Action to ensure the implementation of United Nations resolutions

Preparatory Committee for Habitat II, UNIFEM panel, "From Beijing to Istanbul: a commitment to the world's women" (New York, 6 February 1996). DAWN was represented by the General Coordinator. The aim of the panel was to brief delegates and NGO representatives on the outcomes of the Beijing conference and to ensure that the gains women had secured in the Beijing process were incorporated into the Habitat II agenda.

Cooperation and consultations with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

(a) UNIFEM Strategic Planning Workshop (New York, 9-12 January 1996). The Director of UNIFEM invited DAWN General Coordinator and the Research Coordinator on Alternative Economic Frameworks to this annual UNIFEM event, which brings together UNIFEM's professional staff to reflect on key insights. The Director invited the DAWN General Coordinator to be one of her key advisers.

(b) Consultative/advisory meeting between the Director of UNIFEM, DAWN General Coordinator, and Research Coordinator on Political Economy of Globalization (14 May 1996, New York).

Assistance received from the United Nations

UNFPA provided financial support to DAWN's strategy meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (15-16 May 1995, Barbados). UNFPA also supported the participation of two DAWN representatives to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Social Summit (14-27 January 1995). UNFPA funds made possible the participation of seven Caribbean women at the Summit and NGO Forum (3-12 March 1995).

4. Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund

Special consultative status granted in 1991

Aims and purposes, membership and funding

Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund (formerly known as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund) is a non-profit, public interest, environmental law organization whose purpose is to provide advice concerning environmental laws, their content and application on behalf of other non-profit organizations with an interest in protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural and human environment. Earthjustice provides legal representation for other organizations in courts of the United States and before international tribunals.

Earthjustice promotes the development of international environmental rights and standards through participation in the Commission on Human Rights (Commission) and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, formerly the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (Subcommission). In addition, Earthjustice educates members and others regarding international environmental rights and standards.

Earthjustice has over 150,000 members in 11 countries.

Earthjustice has had no substantial changes in sources of funding since it was granted consultative status.

Earthjustice is not affiliated with any international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Earthjustice representatives attended every session of the Commission during the reporting period. Earthjustice's participation included working with United Nations officials and members of governmental and non-governmental delegations to promote human rights and the environment. Formal submissions include the following:

At the fifty-first session of the Commission (February-March 1995), Earthjustice made oral statements under agenda item 19 on human rights and the environment, and under agenda item 14, concerning the effects of toxic waste dumping on human rights, in particular the right to life. During January 1995, Earthjustice disseminated a memorandum to other non-governmental organizations concerning the report on human rights and the environment by the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission. In December of the same year, Earthjustice submitted to the Centre for Human Rights written comments concerning the Special Rapporteur's final report on human rights and the environment (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9).

At the fifty-second session of the Commission (March 1996), Earthjustice made an oral statement under agenda item 5, concerning human rights and the environment. At that session, Earthjustice also prepared and disseminated numerous written materials concerning human rights and the environment, including an issue paper entitled "Human rights and the environment — Ken Saro-Wiwa: a tragic case in point".

At the fifty-third session of the Commission (March 1997), Earthjustice made an oral statement under agenda item 5, concerning human rights and the environment. During that session, Earthjustice also circulated a position paper entitled "The United Nations, human rights and the environment", and published and disseminated a study, "The realization of environmental human rights within the institutional framework of the United Nations".

At the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (March 1998), Earthjustice made an oral statement under agenda item 5, on human rights and the environment.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

During the reporting period, Earthjustice worked extensively with the Subcommission's Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, consulting with her and conducting research on relevant issues. Earthjustice also consulted with and presented research materials to the Commission's Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of illicit movement and dumping of toxic and

dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, including a 1995 issue paper entitled "Toxics and human rights".

Other relevant activities

Earthjustice representatives met with governmental officials and non-governmental organizations to promote the recommendations in the final report of the Subcommission Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9). Earthjustice has disseminated thousands of copies of the final report in all parts of the world and has produced numerous publications relating to human rights and the environment.

Earthjustice representatives also worked closely with, and provided materials to, the secretariat of the Basel Convention and other UNEP programmes in Geneva, as well as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. During the reporting period, Earthjustice representatives also participated actively in discussions of the working group for the preparation of a draft convention on access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) of the Economic Commission for Europe, which led to the adoption of the Aahrus Convention in June 1998.

5. Four Directions Council

Special consultative status granted in 1983

Aims and purposes

Four Directions Council was organized by the grass-roots leadership of five like-minded indigenous nations in North America. Its principal aim has been increasing the accessibility and responsiveness of the United Nations system to indigenous peoples with a view to advancing the struggle of indigenous peoples for self-determination and encouraging indigenous peoples to play a larger role in addressing global issues such as sustainable development and peacemaking.

As the relationship of indigenous peoples to the United Nations has changed, Four Directions Council has shifted the focus of its work. The turning-point occurred in 1993, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, which Four Directions Council had promoted actively from the Commission on Human Rights to the level of the General Assembly. By 1993, indigenous peoples had achieved recognition as a "major group" at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and as distinct holders of individual and collective rights at the World Conference on Human Rights. The draft of a declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples had been completed and submitted to the Commission on Human Rights, and the General Assembly in its resolution 49/214 called for the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples within the United Nations.

Although indigenous peoples had made considerable progress in gaining access to United Nations decision-making processes by 1993 and had grown visible and outspoken at United Nations conferences and meetings, it became clear to Four Directions Council that:

(a) Transnational corporations and trade liberalization have become threats to the lands and survival of indigenous peoples in the 1990s;

(b) The primary responsibility for global management of trade and investment has been assigned to international bodies such as the World Trade Organization in which indigenous peoples have thus far played no role at all;

(c) The United Nations system has not yet established a mechanism for effectively supporting indigenous peoples at the grass-roots level in urgent struggles with corporations over lands and resources.

Four Directions Council resolved to take the initiative and refocus its activity on the evaluation and management of corporate conduct and international trade as it relates to the lands and territories of indigenous peoples. Three principal goals were set:

(a) Establishment of a network of grass-roots level indigenous peoples' organizations, particularly in the developing countries, for the exchange of strategic information about their experiences in dealing with particular corporations and industries;

(b) Preparation and publication of technical studies of corporate conduct and of the most effective approaches indigenous peoples have found for achieving some measure of control over corporate activities within their traditional territories;

(c) Promotion among indigenous peoples of strategies for obtaining effective access to the international and regional bodies responsible for managing trade, finance, intellectual property rights, and the development of private international law.

It became apparent to Four Directions Council that achieving these goals would require considerable research and administration. To that point, Four Directions Council activities have been carried out entirely by unpaid community volunteers. No fund-raising had been done, and there had been no budget. Of necessity, this would change in 1994.

New activities since 1994

To support the development of an information-sharing network and preparation of technical studies, Four Directions Council has, since 1994:

(a) Established collaborative relationships with three academic programmes that serve indigenous peoples (the Department of Native American Studies at the University of Lethbridge, the Native Law Centre of the University of Saskatchewan, and the Institute for Indigenous Government in Vancouver, British Columbia) and with First Peoples Worldwide, a newly established international development foundation controlled by indigenous peoples;

(b) Obtained more than $100,000 in research grants and contracts from the MacArthur Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Labour Organization, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. These funds have been used to employ students (chiefly indigenous people) to conduct research and to maintain regular telephone contact with cooperating grass-roots indigenous organizations in developing countries;

(c) Organized a documentation centre at the University of Lethbridge (in the heart of the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy) with United Nations documents, and print, interview and multimedia materials obtained from indigenous communities through the network.

As a result of these initiatives, Four Directions Council has been able to contact and exchange strategic information with more than 150 grass-roots indigenous peoples' organizations (86 per cent of them in 19 developing countries), chiefly by telephone and fax, and to build an extensive case-study database on transnational corporations' conduct and the responses of indigenous peoples.

The first publication resulting from this new programme of work is *Effective Negotiation by Indigenous Peoples: An Action Guide with Special Reference to North America*, which includes case studies written in collaboration with community activists from six North American indigenous nations. It was issued by the International Labour Organization in June 1997.

A second book, *Corporate Conduct and Indigenous Peoples: Impacts, Strategies, Outcomes*, is in preparation and will include case studies written in collaboration with community activists from 20 indigenous peoples in Latin America, South-East Asia, North America, and the Russian Federation.

In addition, Four Directions Council has contributed to information workshops on globalization, trade liberalization, and indigenous peoples throughout Canada and the United States, with the aim of mobilizing North American indigenous peoples and NGOs to take advocacy initiatives at the WTO, WIPO, and regional trade organizations.

In addition to these new initiatives, Four Directions Council has continued to send representatives to the annual sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and the working group of the Commission on Human Rights entrusted with elaborating a final text of the declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. Representatives also attended meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Vancouver international summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Council.

6. Economists Allied for Arms Reduction

Special consultative status granted in 1995

Economists Allied for Arms Reduction (ECAAR) seeks to promote objective economic analysis and appropriate action on global issues relating to peace, security and the world economy. It supports and works for policies and institutions so that changes within States can be achieved through peaceful democratic processes and so that international disputes can be managed without war. It supports the creation of systems by which international disputes can be solved through negotiation, arbitration and judicial proceedings and through an enhanced United Nations and other multinational institutions, which will also address common global environmental needs while avoiding waste and enhancing international economic security.

Since 1995, the membership of the organization has doubled to over 2,000 members in 35 countries.

ECAAR's Executive Director, Board of Directors, and individual members participated in many United Nations NGO activities in 1995, including the fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development. During the Conference on Non-proliferation, the Executive Director spoke on the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In January 1995, ECAAR sponsored a panel at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association on "Economic aspects of United Nations Programs for Peace". Speakers included the ECAAR United Nations Observer, the co-chair of the board of directors, the United States Under-secretary of the Treasury, and the director of the Center for Defense Information. On 19 October 1995, ECAAR sponsored a panel discussion at the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium entitled "Economic resources for peace", followed by a discussion on the United Nations financial status and the United States debt to the United Nations. Three board members of ECAAR, all Nobel Laureates, spoke at this event.

In 1995 ECAAR launched a demilitarization project focused on Guatemala. That year also saw the birth of the Vieques Conversion Project to generate a plan for the Puerto Rican island's conversion from a United States military base to a sound, ecologically sustainable economy. ECAAR received a $15,000 challenge grant from the Columbia Foundation for its project Energy Agendas for Non-Proliferation: A Cost Comparison of Nuclear Power to Alternate Energy Sources, and a board member received support from the Ford Foundation to complete the Global Register of Experts on the Economics of Military Affairs.

ECAAR pursued its concern for the financial status of the United Nations in 1996, speaking and writing on United States responsibility to the United Nations and in some cases recommending its members to take direct action. For example, in April, ECAAR's United Nations Observer appealed to all United States members to send a $7 check to the United Nations (representing their share of the dues owed by the United States) and to copy the check to their Congressional representatives.

ECAAR concentrated on its international objectives, particularly in Asia and Eurasia. One of ECAAR's board members sponsored an international conference on arms, security, and development in South Asia, held at Jawaharlal Nehru University in India. There were presentations on the nuclear question in South Asia and on disarmament and development, among others. The same board member established the Mahatma Gandhi International Training Center for Conflict Prevention and Management at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research in Ahmadabad, India. ECAAR's Japan affiliate held its sixth international symposium on "The security and economy of Asia", which centred on India's and Pakistan's nuclear tests and the Asian economic crisis. A new project was launched to engage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea in intellectual exchange about the process of conversion from military to civilian production.

In 1997 ECAAR replaced its entire staff, hired a new Executive Director who had been a political affairs officer in the United Nations Secretariat Department for Disarmament Affairs, and moved to new offices closer to the United Nations. A

member of the board chaired a panel on "The role of the United Nations family in the new world order after the cold war" at the seventh international symposium in Japan.

For the Vieques Conversion Project, the Graduate School of Architecture, Preservation and Planning at Columbia University completed a study of economically sustainable uses for 8,000 acres of land then used by the United States military for a munitions depot. With the Oscar Arias Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, ECAAR completed the first phase of its project designed to support the demilitarization and peace process in Guatemala with a published study demonstrating the negative impact of military spending on the economy. ECAAR also continued its focus on nuclear issues with the Community Education Campaign, which provided economic analyses and technical assistance to help communities make the transition from nuclear production to clean-up of toxic waste.

The founding member of ECAAR's board gave a plenary session speech to the Annual Conference of NGOs in consultative status with the Department of Public Information in September of 1998. The title of the speech was "The post-conflict role of the international community in ensuring human rights".

ECAAR was active in the search for solutions to Russia's serious economic difficulties. ECAAR's Russian affiliate was formed in 1998 and immediately contributed to an international exchange about the state of the Russian economy in transition and the predicament of the Russian military. Members of the Russian affiliate along with United States board members participated in a seminar at the World Bank on the Russian economy. A board member recruited ECAAR scholars to develop three sets of proposals to help economic advisers to the Government of the Russian Federation. One proposal called for the provision of direct advice from a range of international sources, including ECAAR trustees, to Moscow officials on urgent issues, such as reforming the tax code and curbing capital flight.

ECAAR/South Africa worked to educate the public on the Government's plans to spend $5 billion on defence procurement, production and personnel. An ECAAR board member spoke at hearings of the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm against the Saab Company's plans to sell fighters to South Africa and Brazil.

The Community Education Campaign published its findings in the *Atomic Audit*, which analyses the money spent by the United States to develop, build and deploy nuclear weapons. ECAAR board members and other scholars continued to investigate the question of military conversion following the cold war. In 1998 ECAAR developed its United States-based web site while several international affiliates established their own, greatly increasing ECAAR's ability to reach people worldwide. ECAAR panels at the 1998 annual meeting of the American Economic Association included "A new economic policy for Russia", "South Africa's defensive defense and its military production", and "The costs of the international arms trade".

ECAAR reached out to other organizations working on military/economic concerns, including the Center for Defense Information, the Brookings Institute, the British American Security Information Center, the Bonn International Conversion Centre, and the Centre for Economic Conversion. A panel on disarmament and development, to be co-sponsored by ECAAR with several United Nations bodies, including the Secretriat (Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of

Economic and Social Affairs), was planned for July of 1999, with ECAAR to publish papers of the proceedings.

7. Human Appeal International

Special consultative status granted in 1991

Human Appeal International (HAI) has the following goals:

(a) Helping needy societies by improving their educational health, social and economic conditions;

(b) Assisting in relieving societies stricken by natural disasters and social calamities;

(c) Meeting the needs of orphans and improving their health, psychological, and social well-being;

(d) Enhancing the relations and ties between HAI and its counterparts.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

No.	*Event*	*Place*	*Date*	
(a)	Fourth United Nations Conference on Women	China	August 1995	Attended by Executive Director, International Relations Coordinator
(b)	UNDP	Syrian Arab Republic	February 1996	Attended by Executive Director, International Relations Coordinator
(c)	FAO	Morocco	April 1996	Attended by International Relations Coordinator
(d)	United Nations	New York	May 1996	Attended by International Relations Coordinator
(e)	HABITAT II	Turkey	June 1996	Attended by International Relations Coordinator
(f)	IFAD	Italy	November 1996	Attended by Executive Director, International Relations Coordinator
(g)	IFAD	Italy	February 1997	Attended by Executive Director, Italy Office Director
(h)	UNDP	Lebanon	December 1997	Attended by Executive Director
(i)	United Nations	New York	February 1998	Attended by International Relations Coordinator

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In January 1997, HAI signed an agreement with UNHCR and the Government of the Sudan to implement a project on health assistance to the refugees in Um gargur, Karkora kashm El Girba, Kilo 26 and Shagarab. In November 1998, HAI contributed $30,000 to UNHCR for humanitarian assistance related to the Kosovo crisis.

Other relevant activities

During the years 1995 to 1998, Human Appeal International continued to execute its main programme in social development, educational development, health care and urgent relief. The total amount spent was about $19.5 million, distributed in the form of projects in 28 countries.

Each programme comprised many different and significant projects (about 310 in all), broken down as follows:

(a) Running 12 primary and secondary schools;

(b) Running 8 nurseries;

(c) 40 public education centres;

(d) Running 22 clinics;

(e) Running 6 mobile clinics;

(f) Running 60 health campaigns;

(g) Digging 170 drinking water wells;

(h) Supporting 12 productive families projects;

(i) Funding 30 food aid projects;

(j) Sponsoring 8,000 orphans;

(k) Providing 5,000 tons of relief aid.

8. International Association for Volunteer Effort

Special consultative status granted in 1987

Mission

The International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) remains unique — the only international membership organization that exists solely to promote and support more effective volunteer service by all people. Participation in IAVE is the way in which volunteer leaders demonstrate their solidarity with the growing worldwide volunteer movement.

IAVE has an international board of directors with members from 19 countries. The work of the organization is done solely by volunteers with the support of many of the "national volunteer centres" and other volunteer organizations that exist throughout the world.

Activities

Biennial world conferences

The IAVE conferences move throughout the world, planned and managed by local host committees. The conferences raise awareness of the importance of volunteering, draw leaders from the public and private sectors into the volunteer community and offer a unique opportunity for volunteer leaders from throughout the region to build their skills and to learn from colleagues worldwide. Over 100 countries have been represented at IAVE's 15 biennial world conferences, and over 400 scholarships have been provided for participants in the past six conferences alone. Three biennial conferences were held during the reporting period. In 1994 the conference was in Tokyo, Japan, and 76 countries attended. In 1996 56 countries attended the conference in Capetown, South Africa; and in 1998 80 countries attended the conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The Executive Coordinator of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Sharon Capeling-Alakija, gave the keynote address at the Edmonton conference, speaking on the International Year of Volunteers.

The next conference will be held 14-19 January 2001 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, as the launch of the International Year of Volunteers (2001), proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1997. In alternate years, IAVE and its members convene in regional conferences, which offer people who are unable to attend the world conference an opportunity to be involved. Regional conferences typically focus on the exchange of best practices and skill development training. The following were held during the time period: 20 countries in the North American region, in collaboration with Wild Rose Foundation, met in Canada; 23 countries in the Asia/Pacific region met in the Philippines, resulting in the formation of the Philippines Association for Volunteer Effort (PAVE); and 23 countries in the same regional conference met in the Republic of Korea.

Volunteer centres

IAVE is committed to supporting the development of strong national and local volunteer centres throughout the world. IAVE has also begun to develop materials to help stimulate and support the development of new national centres. IAVE created a Universal Declaration on Voluntarism, in 1990, which is used by many volunteer centres around the world.

Education and training

IAVE has provided training programmes for indigenous grass-roots leaders in techniques of volunteer mobilization and management, corporate volunteer programme development, and the development of local volunteer centres.

Public awareness

IAVE has played a major role in promoting the annual celebration of International Volunteer Day on 5 December. IAVE members also work with local governments throughout the world. In 1994, after its Tokyo conference IAVE began supporting the Japanese Diet in putting together the proposal for the United Nations declaration of the International Year of the Volunteer in 2001 (IYV). The Japanese Government later made formal submission to the Economic and Social Council.

IAVE began its appeal to all Governments to acknowledge and support the declaration of the Year and has continued to support the Year, working closely with United Nations Volunteers starting in 1996.

At the 1998 IAVE World Conference, the Canadian Prime Minister supported the conference and formally supported the declaration of the Year.

Youth involvement

IAVE is committed to drawing young people into active participation in all aspects of its work and to supporting the growing worldwide interest in youth volunteering. A special international task force of IAVE members leads this effort.

Membership services

IAVE currently has individual, corporate and organizational members from more than 100 countries. In addition, it has a growing number of affiliated national associations of volunteering, each with its own membership. Through its tri-annual newsletter (currently published by volunteers in English, Spanish, French and Japanese), IAVE creates communication networks among its members for sharing ideas, problems, answers and resources. IAVE also has a volunteer liaison representative who attends all United Nations public information meetings for non-governmental organizations and provides regular reporting on United Nations activities for the newsletter.

Support for United Nations activities

In 1994, the IAVE President addressed Asia/Pacific NGO Conference on the World Summit for Social Development (Manila), speaking on the volunteer movement worldwide and the leadership roles in the movement of IAVE and UNV.

The IAVE President attended sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (January 1995), and an IAVE delegation attended the Summit itself in Copenhagen in March 1995. The IAVE President was invited to address the General Assembly of NGOs on IAVE interventions on the following matters: "Improving arrangements for volunteering part-time", "Supporting networks for volunteer management" and "The pursuit of volunteering in business enterprises". At the Summit, IAVE proposed an amendment to the draft declaration, which was accepted. All IAVE documents were circulated to the world press present at the Summit and its delegation met with more than 50 governmental delegations to discuss their interventions, and IAVE members wrote to all other Governments present.

In July 1995 the IAVE President was invited to chair a meeting of the General Assembly on governance for the next decade, in celebration of the United Nations fiftieth birthday. The President addressed the meeting on volunteering for the next decade.

An IAVE capacity-building training programme was conducted in Fiji for the development of non-governmental organizations in Pacific Island countries.

The IAVE President visited Bangladesh immediately prior to national elections to congratulate the United Nations and other volunteer groups who were assisting in

ensuring free and fair elections. Visits were made to United Nations projects in Dhaka and also to rural areas.

In 1996 more than 30 African countries pledged to support the recognition of volunteers on International Volunteer Day and to report to IAVE and UNV on their undertakings.

In 1997, the IAVE Vice-President represented IAVE and made formal presentations to the Council for the Year of Volunteers. Presentations were also made by the Government of Japan and UNDP. All participants were urged to support the Year. IAVE asked that national plans for the Year be ready for presentation and consideration at the 1999-2000 IAVE regional meetings.

9. International Institute of Humanitarian Law

Special consultative status granted in 1983

Teaching and training

Military courses

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) regularly organizes courses in San Remo on the law of armed conflict for officers of national armed forces, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross. These two-week courses aim at promoting in the armed forces a wider awareness of international humanitarian rules applicable in armed conflict situations so as to ensure a higher level of respect and compliance with such rules. Human rights in conflict situations and the special role of the United Nations peacekeeping forces are also dealt with. In the period 1995-1998, 25 courses were organized in English, French and Spanish (occasionally in Arabic and Portuguese) for 901 senior officers, from 104 countries.

In April and May two seminars on human rights for military personnel took place, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights, at the ILO Centre in Turin — one in English for Eastern European countries, including the Russian Federation, and the other in Portuguese. Fifty-three officers participated, from 17 countries.

Courses on international refugee law

The IIHL courses on international refugee law, organized with the support and under the auspices of UNHCR and the Swiss Federal Office for Refugees, are meant for governmental officials and NGO and Red Cross or Red Crescent personnel with specific responsibilities for the problems of refugees and asylum-seekers. In the period 1995-1998, four courses were organized in English; 176 participants attended, from 84 countries.

A course on refugee law for Arab countries was organized in Cairo in 1997 by UNHCR, in collaboration with the Institute. Diplomats and high-level officials from 15 Arab countries participated together with representatives of the Arab League and UNHCR.

Conferences, seminars and meetings of experts

Annual round tables or congresses

Through the years under review IIHL has affirmed its reputation as an independent setting for experts from Governments, international organizations and humanitarian institutions and for individual experts to meet at an annual round table or congress and have an informal dialogue on current problems of international humanitarian law. The titles of the meetings were as follows:

1995: United for the Respect of International Humanitarian Law, 170 participants;

1996: Armed Conflicts and Disintegration of States: Humanitarian Challenge, 148 participants;

1997: Impact of Humanitarian Assistance and the Mass Media on the Evolution of Conflict Situations, 178 participants;

1998: The International Criminal Court: Evaluation and Progress of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference in Rome, 141 participants.

Other meetings of experts

(a) 13-14 May 1995, Geneva: Meeting on Humanitarian Consequences of Embargo Measures. A group of 20 experts discussed the problem with specific reference to the need for the protection of the civilian population;

(b) 12-14 June 1995, Warsaw: Second International Conference on Refugees in Central and Eastern Europe. Seventy-seven experts and governmental representatives from 24 countries attended to exchange experiences on legal procedures determining refugee status. Possible technical aid from Western European countries concerning the organization of information services within competent national authorities was also discussed;

(c) 9-11 February 1996, Ferney-Voltaire (France): Meeting of Experts on the Rights of Migrants. Thirty-four participants from non-governmental organizations and various countries participated;

(d) 21-22 March 1996, Zurich: Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Protection of Asylum-Seekers. Twenty-two representatives from 13 European countries and from Australia, Canada and the United States attended and discussed the obligation of States to readmit their own nationals, temporary protection, development assistance for the countries of origin, and the applicability of the 1951 Refugee Convention;

(e) 6-8 June 1996, Taormina (Italy): Symposium on Respect for Human Rights in Times of Emergency and Armed Conflict. The Symposium promoted in-depth examination of the application of the International Covenants on Human Rights, covering four main topics: systematic relations between IIHL and human rights; the United Nations and respect for human rights in armed conflicts; peacekeeping operations and human rights; the repression of violations of human rights in times of armed conflict. Ninety-four experts, governmental representatives and Red Cross/Red Crescent delegates attended from all over the world.

(f) 17-19 June 1996, Bucharest: Seminar on the Right to Return to One's Own Country (XII European Dialogue on Current Humanitarian Issues). Organized in collaboration with Romanian authorities and the Swiss Federal Office for Refugees, the Seminar brought together 66 experts from Governments and humanitarian agencies to discuss the effective application of the right to return to one's own country. Special attention was given to crucial problems arising from cases of disintegration, fragmentation and implosion of States, as in Afghanistan, Liberia, Somalia and in territories of the former Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia;

(g) 20-24 May 1997, Madrid: Symposium on the Resettlement of Refugees in Europe. Organized in collaboration with the national Spanish UNHCR Committee, the Symposium brought together 44 experts from UNHCR, IOM and various non-governmental organizations. Legal, political and humanitarian aspects of resettlement were discussed;

(h) 12-14 June 1997, Moscow: Seminar on Reception Procedures for Refugees and Asylum Seekers: The Need for Standards (XIII European Dialogue on Current Humanitarian Issues). Sixty-six participants from 17 Governments and UNHCR, IOM, Council of Europe and ICRC discussed reception procedures, with the aim of defining a set of generally acceptable standards to comply with current international law.

Research work

In 1998, the Council of IIHL approved the commencement of research on humanitarian protection in non-international conflicts. The research will result in the publication of a manual, possibly in 2001.

10. International Movement ATD Fourth World

General consultative status granted in 1991

Aims and purposes

The International Movement ATD Fourth World engages individuals and institutions in support of the efforts of people living in poverty to free themselves from destitution. Founded in 1957 by Joseph Wresinski, whose family had suffered from great poverty, ATD Fourth World has branches on all continents and correspondents in 116 countries. It is not affiliated with any political party or religious group. Its members are united by respect for each person's dignity. Grass-roots projects are developed in partnership with persons and communities in destitute areas. These projects vary from training and creating employment to fostering artistic creation, education, social participation, good health and protection of the environment. Since the organization's last report, there have been no substantial changes in geographical membership or sources of funding.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

General Assembly. In October 1998, at a special joint meeting of the Second and Third Committees, ATD Fourth World was asked to speak on a panel addressing poverty, development and human rights.

Economic and Social Council. Representatives of ATD Fourth World attended in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. At these meetings, they took the floor in 1997 and 1998 on items relating to extreme poverty and human rights.

Commission on Human Rights. Representatives attended the fifty-first session (1995) and made a statement on item 7; at the fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions (1996, 1997 and 1998), they made statements on item 5. In addition, at the fifty-fourth session, the NGO Fourth World Committee organized a panel discussion, in which ATD Fourth World played an active role. Representatives also attended the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (forty-seventh session in 1995, forty-eighth session in 1996, forty-ninth session in 1997, fiftieth session in 1998) and made statements on items 8 and 10.

Commission for Social Development. The organization's Vice-President attended and made an oral statement at the thirty-fifth session (1997) and oral and written statements on item 3 (b) at the thirty-sixth session (1998).

Commission for Sustainable Development. A representative attended in 1995.

World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995). The organization's President made a statement to the Summit on the theme, "Rethinking human activity in order to fight poverty and exclusion". At the NGO Forum, ATD Fourth World ran a workshop on the same theme.

World Youth Forum (Portugal, 1998). The organization's representative attended and presented a written joint statement of non-governmental organizations. ATD Fourth World shared responsibility for running a working group on poverty eradication and social development, and collaborated on the drafting committee.

Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). Two representatives attended.

ESCAP (Bangkok). Representatives of ATD Fourth World attended the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of ESCAP as well as several regional meetings on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (Asia/Pacific region).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

UNICEF: In 1995, ATD Fourth World presented a written statement to the Executive Board at its third session concerning the mid-decade goals for children and the World Summit for Social Development. In 1996, ATD Fourth World and UNICEF co-hosted an international seminar on the theme "Reaching the poorest". During 1997-1998, ATD Fourth World supported UNICEF's efforts to compile a report on the seminar. In 1997, ATD Fourth World contributed to research done by the UNICEF health secretariat on "reaching the unreached".

High Commissioner for Human Rights. In 1995, ATD Fourth World submitted a statement which was annexed to E/CN.4/1995/101. In 1997 the organization

submitted a statement concerning the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

ILO: At the eighty-second session of the General Conference in Geneva, ATD Fourth World submitted a written statement to the general debate on the issue of promoting employment. Representatives attended the ILO Regional Conference held in Bangkok in December 1997.

UNDP: On 17 October 1995, UNDP's Administrator read the message of the United Nations Secretary-General at the commemoration for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, held at United Nations Headquarters and organized by ATD Fourth World and the United Nations Secretariat Department of Public Information. In 1996-1997, as part of UNDP's Sister Cities International campaign, ATD Fourth World convinced the Mayor of New Orleans to declare 17 October the World Day for Overcoming Poverty in that city. At the request of UNDP in the spring of 1997, ATD Fourth World prepared a paper on the history of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. ATD Fourth World has continued to follow the work of the UNDP Executive Board. The organization cooperated with the European Office of UNDP in Geneva in preparation of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (Lyon, France, 1998) and for the annual observances of 17 October. At the national and regional level, 17 October has been the occasion of various types of collaboration.

UNESCO: The organization participated in the World Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs, organized by UNESCO, in cooperation with the Latin American Youth Forum (FLA), with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (Chile, September 1997). The organization's representatives took the floor during the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the General Conference in Paris (1995 and 1997) and during the second extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the World Decade for Cultural Development (1995). In Tokyo in 1995, the organization attended both the collective NGO consultations on illiteracy and basic education and the collective consultations on youth. ATD Fourth World participated in the Asia/Pacific Meeting of Youth Organizations in preparation for the Third World Forum, organized by UNESCO and ESCAP (Bangkok, May 1998). In 1995, the Under-Director-General for social and human sciences represented UNESCO at the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, organized by ATD Fourth World in Paris. ATD Fourth World made a statement at the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, April 1998), which adopted a resolution on meeting the aspirations of the very poor to cultural development. UNESCO's principal regional office in Asia and the Pacific financed a special art project run by ATD Fourth World in two deprived communities in Bangkok and co-sponsored the exhibition following the project, entitled "Blue buffaloes in the sky". ATD Fourth World representatives made an oral statement during a panel discussion on poverty during the NGO Forum at UNESCO (November 1998), and made oral and written statements during the "Week of UNESCO" in Tupiza (Bolivia), during the seminar on "Eradication of poverty in the dawn of the twenty-first century".

FAO: Participation in the World Food Summit (Rome, 1996).

WHO: In 1996, WHO invited ATD Fourth World to give the keynote speech on poverty and ill health at an international conference in Maynooth, Ireland. This was followed up in September 1997 by an invitation for ATD Fourth World to speak at

the International Health Conference, held in Baltimore, and co-sponsored by WHO and by the state of Maryland.

World Bank: In 1998, the Vice-President of ATD Fourth World and the President of its United States branch were both invited to contribute research to an ongoing World Bank project on extreme poverty and human rights.

UNCHS (Habitat): In May 1998, UNCHS and the NGO Committee on Human Settlements invited ATD Fourth World to speak on partnership and community-building at a forum called "Habitat watch: towards sustainability and adequacy of settlements at Habitat II+2".

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

(a) International Day of Families (15 May). Every year, ATD Fourth World issues a public statement concerning the effects of extreme poverty on the family unit and the ways in which families resist poverty. ATD Fourth World also observes this day publicly on many continents;

(b) In December 1992, the General Assembly established 17 October as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Because the organization's founder was the initiator of the day's first observance in 1987, ATD Fourth World has widely publicized this resolution. In 1995 and 1996, the organization submitted reports to the Secretary-General describing the diverse and creative ways in which its members around the world observe this day. At United Nations Headquarters in New York and at the United Nations Office in Geneva, commemorations are co-organized by the United Nations, ATD Fourth World, member States and 33 other non-governmental organizations. The commemorations include music, a theatrical presentation by children who fight poverty in their daily lives, and testimonies bearing witness to efforts made to overcome poverty. In 1998, an outdoor art exhibit was set up in New York;

(c) To launch the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty in 1996, a representative of ATD Fourth World was invited by UNDP to inaugurate a "poverty clock". On 17 October of that year, France offered the United Nations a commemorative stone in the honour of the victims of extreme poverty. It is a replica of a stone first inaugurated by ATD Fourth World in France in 1987. The replica stands in the garden of United Nations Headquarters, where annual commemorations are held.

(d) International Day of Volunteers (5 December) is celebrated by ATD Fourth World in various countries, by joining celebrations organized by United Nations agencies or other NGOs, by participating in meetings, and by contributing to exhibitions.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

In 1995, the President and Vice-President of ATD Fourth World were received by the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development concerning the International Year of the Family, youth issues, and the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. The President was also received by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. In

July 1996, the United Nations Secretary-General invited an international delegation of ATD Fourth World to consult with him and with staff representing a dozen United Nations agencies on proposals for the implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. That two-day event in Geneva is documented in the video, "From Darkness to Light". In 1997, the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs received ATD Fourth World's Secretary-General to discuss the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. Since 1996, the Under-Secretary-General has made time each year on 17 October to join families living in poverty and others from all walks of life, at the Commemorative Stone in Honour of the Victims of Extreme Poverty at the United Nations in New York.

In 1998, the High Commissioner for Human Rights received the Executive Secretary of ATD Fourth World in preparation for an observance of the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each year, the Director-General of FAO sends the President of ATD Fourth World a message for the celebration of 17 October. The Director-General of UNESCO attended observances of 17 October organized by ATD Fourth World in Paris. In 1998, he received the President of ATD Fourth World. In 1995-1998, representatives of ATD Fourth World also consulted with the Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations, the ILO Director-General, and the independent expert on extreme poverty and human rights. In November 1997, the Secretariat's "One Percent for Development Fund" granted $6,000 to an ATD Fourth World project to build a community laundry in Apanto, Bolivia. The building makes water accessible to those who had no access to water before.

Preparation of papers at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies or of the United Nations Secretariat

(a) "Final report on human rights and extreme poverty, submitted by the Special Rapporteur ..." (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/13). ATD Fourth World's founder called for this report in addressing the Commission on Human Rights in 1987. The special rapporteur's mandate required him to collaborate with people living in extreme poverty, which he did through extensive collaboration with ATD Fourth World;

(b) *Reaching the Poorest*. This fruit of a lengthy collaboration with UNICEF was first published in French in 1996. In 1997-1998, ATD Fourth World and UNICEF translated and published it in English;

(c) *Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 50 Years and Beyond* (November 1998). The President of ATD Fourth World was asked to contribute a chapter to this United Nations publication.

Collaboration with other non-governmental organizations

ATD Fourth World continues to be an active member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations. ATD Fourth World chaired in 1995-1998 the NGO working group at UNESCO on culture and development. In 1998, its representative was elected treasurer of the NGO Committee for Social Development. It is also part of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, the NGO Committee on Youth, and the NGO Committee on Human Rights. ATD Fourth World's representatives have also been invited to speak at a number of NGO conferences, including:

(a) 1998 DPI/NGO conference, during the dialogue on the human rights of older persons;

(b) A meeting of the Society for International Development (December 1998) at United Nations Headquarters, on extreme poverty and human rights.

ATD Fourth World co-organized with other non-governmental organizations the Human Rights Defenders Summit (Paris, December 1998), to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Other substantive activities

Many United Nations conferences and international years are reported on in ATD Fourth World's various newsletters in different countries (circulation: 400,000). Issues related to the United Nations and to poverty, including Agenda 21, the Agenda for Peace, and the Declaration and Programme of Action on Social Development are regularly integrated into the themes of ATD Fourth World human rights courses and summer activities. In this way, hundreds of thousands of citizens, among them people living in deep poverty, prepare to collaborate in the efforts of the United Nations to fight poverty and to promote peace.

Publications

For the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ATD Fourth World published a collection of seven articles, entitled *Extreme Poverty: The New Face of Apartheid*. The *Letter to Friends Around the World* is a newsletter published in English, French and Spanish three times each year and sent to individuals, organizations, universities and civil servants, in more than 100 countries. For the World Decade for Cultural Development, the UNESCO/NGO working group on culture and development, chaired by ATD Fourth World, published, with UNESCO *Culture, A Way to Fight Extreme Poverty*.

11. Perhaps ... Kids Meeting Kids Can Make a Difference

Special consultative status granted in 1995

Aims and purposes

Perhaps ... Kids Meeting Kids brings children and youth, aged 5-24, together from all backgrounds and nations in an effort to create a world that is peaceful and just. Their work together makes it possible for kids from many countries to know that they, too, can participate, take action for positive change and make a difference in the world in which they live. The organization is run by children and youth. Decisions are reached by consensus and made by young people working in cooperation with a few supportive adults. Actions taken are the actions of young people.

Kids Meeting Kids has organized and operates an international children's rights network for young people and has distributed information worldwide on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It has worked continuously every year from 1995 to the present to inform young people of their rights and to urge adult leaders to both ratify and enforce the Convention.

Kids Meeting Kids has maintained a pen pal network and a computer network since 1995 which publishes information on violations of children's rights and helps children and youth find ways to work together peacefully to help one another. Reports of Kids Meeting Kids' activities were shared with the Commission on Human Rights in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Kids Meeting Kids works in collaboration with other organizations to secure peace and justice for children — and adults — in all countries. Representatives of the organization have worked with the Economic and Social Council, and the United Nations NGO Committees on Youth, Narcotics, Disarmament, and Human Rights from 1995 to 2000. It has attended meetings of the Third Committee and worked actively with the Graca Machel study on children in armed conflict. Representatives have worked, as well, with the NGO Committee of UNICEF, taking very active roles in the UNICEF NGO Working Groups on Children in Armed Conflict, the Rights of the Child, the Girl Child, and Education.

In 2000 and 2001, Kids Meeting Kids is working actively to help provide the youth component for the Preparatory Committee for the tenth anniversary follow-up to the World Summit for Children, to be held in 2001.

In 1996 and 1997 representatives of Kids Meeting Kids helped to develop a summary of international laws protecting children in armed conflict.

Kids Meeting Kids holds annual international children's congresses, most often in collaboration with UNICEF. Children and youth delegates are invited from each of the Missions to the United Nations. The Congresses have dealt with issues of children's rights, children caring for one another in the world, and non-violence/peace education.

At the time of Graca Machel's report on children in armed conflict, Kids Meeting Kids hosted a youth congress involving children who had been the victims of war. With Graca Machel, they presented their case before an open meeting at the United Nations.

Kids Meeting Kids is planning an international children's congress for 2000 and 2001 which will address issues of children's rights and other issues current with the United Nations.

12. Association of Arab-American University Graduates

Special consultative status granted in 1995

The Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) is a not-for-profit educational and cultural organization representing the broad spectrum of Arab-American professionals. Through its publications and activities, AAUG has been a consistent voice for justice and peace in the Middle East.

AAUG publishes three periodicals. *Arab Studies Quarterly* is the flagship publication and the largest circulating journal in English devoted exclusively to the Arab world. *AAUG Monitor* is a quarterly publication which includes analysis and commentary of current events and trends. The *AAUG Newsletter* supports the membership by providing a forum for news of the Association's activities and the views of its membership.

AAUG coordinates a mentorship programme to bring together experienced scholars and professionals from various fields with students and young professionals.

AAUG organizes an annual national conference and smaller local seminars on the Middle East and Arab-American issues. It also holds special conferences in the Arab world in cooperation with local academic institutions. In the past it has held joint conferences with Bir Zeit University, the University of Jordan and, in the summer of 2000, in Beirut in collaboration with the Center for Arab Studies.

Participation in United Nations conferences and/or meetings

A representative of AAUG attended meetings of the Economic and Social Council in July 1997, 1998 and 1999.

A representative of AAUG has been a member of the Planning Committee for the DPI/NGO Annual Conference for three consecutive years (1998, 1999, 2000), and an AAUG member was chair of the Registration Committee in 2000. An AAUG representative was elected a member of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee.

On the question of Palestine, AAUG representatives have attended the relevant meetings of the Second Committee and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, most recently on 17 October 2000.